

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A negative electrode, comprising:

a) a lithium material; and

b) a film of $\text{Li}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ on a surface of the coating said lithium material, said film formed by treating said lithium material with an oxidizing agent comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of an interhalogen, an oxychloride and combinations thereof prior to incorporation of said electrode into a battery cell.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (original) The electrode of claim 19, wherein said lithium material is comprised of at least one of lithium metal, a lithium alloy, and a lithium insertion compound.

25-47. (canceled)